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somewhat set back from the edge opposing the master light beam circuit board 84. These two connectors 84a and 87a are joined to each other by a flat cable 88. An adequate amount of slack is provided in the flat cable 88 to facilitate the replacement of the circuit boards.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3, 6 and 10-12 without prejudice or disclaimer.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, please substitute for claims 1, 4, 7-9, 13 and 15-17, the following rewritten versions of the same claims, as amended. The changes are shown explicitly in the attached "Versions with Markings to Show Changes Made."

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1. (Once Amended) A light curtain generating device, comprising a light emitting pillar assembly accommodating an array of light emitting units within a pillar case and a light receiving pillar assembly accommodating an array of light receiving units within a pillar case, the light emitting pillar assembly and light receiving pillar assembly being placed opposite to each other so as to form a light curtain for detecting an object between the pillar assemblies, characterized in that:

the light emitting unit array and light receiving unit array accommodated in the respective pillar cases each comprise a group of single-beam optical modules,

each single-beam optical module comprising a single light emitting unit or a single light receiving unit comprising a lens, an optical element and a holder integrally incorporated with the lens and optical element so as to align the lens and optical element with a prescribed optical axial line, and the holder being separated from holders of other single-beam optical modules,

each pillar case accommodating a base frame defining mounting positions for a plurality of single-beam optical modules, and

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each single-beam optical module being mounted in the mounting position of the base frame.

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4. (Once Amended) A light curtain generating device according to claim 1, wherein the holder is made of plastic material.

7. (Once Amended) A light curtain generating device according to claim 1, wherein the base frame comprises a metallic plate member, and each single-beam optical module is attached to the metallic plate at a side of the single-beam optical module extending in parallel with the optical axial line.

A3
8. (Once Amended) A light curtain generating device according to claim 7, wherein each single-beam optical module is attached to the metallic plate by a snap fit arrangement.

9. (Once Amended) A light curtain generating device according to claim 1, further comprising a circuit board having a plurality of optical element mountable positions, and signal processing means for electrically and selectively disabling the optical element mountable positions.

A4
13. (Once Amended) A light curtain generating device according to claim 1, wherein each pillar case accommodates at least two base frames arranged in series along a length of the pillar.

A5
15. (Once Amended) A light curtain generating device according to claim 13, wherein the two base frames have different numbers of mounting positions.

16. (Once Amended) A light curtain generating device according to claim 13, wherein the two base frames have different lengths.

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17. (Once Amended) A light curtain generating device according to claim 13, wherein the base frames comprise metallic plate members.
